



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS  
3000 MARINE CORPS PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20350-3000

IN REPLY REFER TO:

5720  
ARSF-F1/12U100179  
March 16, 2012

MR JASON SMATHERS  
MUCKROCK NEWS  
DEPT MR 1076  
P O BOX 55819  
BOSTON MA 02205-5819

Dear Mr. Smathers:

SUBJECT: FILE NUMBER HQMC-201200274

This refers to your February 3, 2012, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, in which you seek to obtain copies of all deceased letter sent out between April 1, 2011 to date. Your request was received by this Headquarters on February 7, 2012 and has been assigned Control Number HQMC-201200274 for processing as an initial request.

I have initiated a search of HQMC files to locate and retrieve any information that may be responsive to your request. Please be advised that I am unable to provide you a substantive response to your request at this time since the information you seek is not maintained by this office, but they are maintained by the records manager. Upon completion of our Headquarters search, we will review any identified responsive material and will apprise you of its releasability under the FOIA.

In light of the above, you may consider this an adverse determination that may be appealed for timeliness to the Deputy Assistant Judge Advocate General, General Litigation Division (Code 14), 1322 Patterson Avenue SE, Suite 3000, Washington Navy Yard, DC 20374-5066. Your appeal, if any, must be postmarked within 60 calendar days from the date of this letter to be considered and should include a copy of this letter. Additionally, your letter of appeal should contain a written statement indicating why you believe that we have not acted in a timely manner. I recommend that your letter and the envelope both bear the notation "Freedom of Information Act Appeal."

I apologize for our delay in responding to your request. However, due to limited manpower and resources, we accrued a substantial backlog of 300+ FOIA request case files.

However, should you elect to wait a substantive response, I can assure that your right to appeal any information that might be denied will not be prejudiced in any way. Should you have questions concerning this action, please Ms. Mary Malone of my staff at (703) 614-4008. I am the official responsible for the adverse determination at this Headquarters.

Sincerely,

*Teresa D. Ross*

TERESA D. ROSS  
Head, FOIA/PA Section  
Security Programs & Information Mgmt Branch  
Administration & Resource Mgmt Division